

HA-1416

1890

Richardson House  
144 N. Hickory  
Bel Air  
private

This late Victorian house was designed by architect George Archer, a Harford man with offices in Baltimore, for druggist John S. Richardson, Jr. The aluminum siding has robbed the house of what was probably Queen Anne outside detail, but the Eastlake staircase and first floor mantels are still intact and worthy of note. The parlor mantel, in particular, is a handsome arrangement of spindle work and mirrored over mantel. The embossed tiles of all three mantels are all different in color and design and all are exceptional. The house is one of the few in Town to have a large reception hall and a library downstairs.

A day nursery now occupies the premises.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Richardson House

AND/OR COMMON

Bo-Peep Day Care Center

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

114 N. Hickory Avenue

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Lee V. Glenn

Telephone #: 836-7332

STREET &amp; NUMBER

114 N. Hickory Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Liber #: 550

Folio #: 285

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

NA-1416

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This two and a half story gable roofed, aluminum sided house is at 114 N. Hickory in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. The house is composed of a four bay by three bay main block plus a two bay by two bay back building. The front (east) elevation shows a gable with a 1/1 double hung sash window over the north two bays. The south two bays are topped by the hipped roof that occurs there, over the south elevation and one bay of the rear elevation of the main block. The front gable meets a side gable over a projecting two bay section of the main block on the north elevation. A semi-circular, three pane lunette occupies the north gable. The back building has a gable roof with its gable on the rear (west) elevation. Shed-roofed, slate-sided dormers break the roof lines: one in the middle of the roof over the south two bays of the front (east) elevation, one on either side of the gable on the north elevation and one over the single bay of the west elevation of the main block - four in all. All of the windows are 1/1 double hung sash except for the three first story front (east) elevation and one first story north elevation windows. These are double 3 pane floor to ceiling casements. All the windows except those on the rear (west) elevation have wooden louvered shutters.

Two massive corbelled chimneys rise, one in the north face of the gable of the back building and one in the middle of the hipped roof on the south elevation. There are two porches. The front porch wraps around to the north elevation for one bay. It has a shed roof carried on groups of (usually) three chamfered posts. The back porch has a shed roof and is partially enclosed. Fire regulations have brought some disfiguring additions: a metal fire escape from the window in the front gable and a wooden dog-leg outside staircase enclosed in yellow corrugated plastic which ascends alongside the south elevation of the back building. There are three entrances. The main (front) entrance has the original 6 panel door topped by a single pane transom. The kitchen door opens onto the back porch. A door in the south elevation of the back building opens onto the back service hall.

The interior is quite roomy. The front door opens onto a reception hall the same size as the parlor to the south of it. The arresting open string oak Eastlake staircase occupies the whole rear (west) wall of the reception hall, framed in paneled posts. There are carved stair brackets. The turned balusters rise to the ceiling, the end one resembling a smooth round column, the whole giving the effect of a spindle curtain. At the top of the run, near the hall ceiling is a block of paneling. A longitudinal hall opens off the main hall running back to the transverse service hall in the back building and dividing the ground floor into two halves. South of the entrance hall through a large square arch is the parlor. The most elaborate mantel is in this room. It has been blocked to protect its tiles from the children. Still showing are the carved panels of the colonettes and the elaborate three part mirrored overmantel with

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1890

~~XXXXXX~~ ARCHITECT: George Archer

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This large L-shaped house conforms to Bel Air's architectural tradition. While its massing is irregular and it probably has decorative shingles in the gables under the aluminum siding, it is a frame structure with no particularly complex decoration on the exterior. Bel Air's Victorian architecture is not highly decorated or bizarrely shaped. This one does not even extend itself to a bay window. The decoration is reserved for the interior and even there is very reserved. The Eastlake staircase is the only one in Town. It is elegant without the gew-gaws so often applied in Eastlake design. One feels Eastlake himself would have approved. The mantels are decorated, the one in the parlor in particular, but they owe their considerable beauty not to spindles, but to their lovely tiles, most of which remain. The tiles of the dining room fireplace are particularly notable. The mantels are by the Riddle-Slade Mantel Co. of Baltimore. The house was designed with central heating.

The house was designed in 1890 by Bel Air's favorite architect, George Archer, a Harford Countian practicing in Baltimore, for John S. Richardson, Jr., the founder of Richardson's Pharmacy which continues under that name at the northeast corner of Main and Pennsylvania. Mr. Richardson was the son of John S. Richardson, Sr., and Mary Rouse Richardson, the daughter of Christopher Chapman Rouse of Joppa. Richardson, Sr., was an auctioneer and, during Cleveland's first administration, Bel Air's postmaster.

Richardson, or more precisely his wife Elizabeth, took title to the land in January 1890 from his father for \$2,000 (66/215). The 1878 map shows a small house on the very corner of the lot. Whether the house was still there in 1890 is not known. Richardson had two children, Lloyd, who continued the pharmacy, and Kortright (Mrs. Aloysius Valentine) later of Washington, D.C. Mrs. Valentine described life in the house to Lee Glenn, the present owner. They entertained extensively, often clearing the reception hall and the parlor of furniture, opening the casements to the front porch, and holding dances in the long rooms and on the porch. In that day of numerous servant class, the whole house was wired with call bells whose wires ran down to the kitchen to a board with small bells of different sizes, each with its own voice and label. The bells were on small springs so that they rang like shop bells. The house was one of the most elaborate in Bel Air and was assessed at \$3,197 in 1920. The land was assessed at \$1,932.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Courthouse Portraits, p. 33.  
 1878 Map  
 Interview with Lee Glenn, October 24, 1979  
 1920 Bel Air Tax Assessment

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #595 in the Town of Bel Air.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M. Larew, Architectural Historian

6 November 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

shelves over the side mirrors and a carved panel topped by a turned spindle gallery over the central mirror. West of the parlor (behind it) is the library with its fireplace. A classical oak mantel surrounds the brown tiles with a raised floral pattern. West of (behind) the entrance hall and off the center hall is the dining room. The dining room mantel has semi circular shelves along both sides and across the top. The frieze is flat against the wall, grooved, and recessed between the shelf over the fireplace opening and the mantel shelf which is supported on reeded colonettes enclosed in bracketed spindle supports. Green tiles surround the opening. The elegant raised pattern has swans, cattails and other water plants and birds. The first floor fireplaces are lined in embossed cast iron to reflect the heat, although the house was built with central heating. The woodwork of the first floor main block is molded.

West of the hall doors to the library and dining room the hall becomes a service hall with the now closed service staircase against the north wall. This short hall terminates in a transverse service hall. West of this hall are (south) a glass enclosed porch, now an office, (center) the butler's pantry now a bathroom, and (north) the kitchen. The floor plan is unusually complex for Bel Air.

There are four bedrooms, a sewing room, and a bathroom on the second floor. The two front bedrooms belonged to Mrs. Richardson and Kortright. They have fireplaces with simple surrounds with three carved sunflower motifs on the friezes.

There is a two bedroom apartment on the attic level.

The house passed to Mrs. Valentine on the death of her mother. After having been 70 years in Richardson ownership, the property was sold by Mrs. Valentine in 1960 to the present owner, Lee V. Glenn (550/285) who operates a day nursery there. Glenn has made very few changes: closing the back staircase, adding a door to the top of the front staircase (both required by fire regulations), panneling the walls, modernizing the kitchen. Behind the nursery equipment one may still perceive the elegance of this late 19th century house.

TITLE: 114 N. HICKORY

550/285            20 May 1960  
Kortright A. Valentine, widow  
                 to  
Lee V. Glenn & Rosella  
Elizabeth K. H. Richardson is dead

327/88            2 March 1949  
Janet E. Pyle  
                 to  
Elizabeth K. H. Richardson &  
Kortright R. Valentine

327/85            2 March 1949  
Elizabeth Richardson, widow, &  
Kortright R. Valentine & Aloysius  
of Washington, D.C.

321/192           29 September 1948  
Janet E. Pyle  
                 to  
Elizabeth Richardson for life with remainder  
to Kortright Valentine

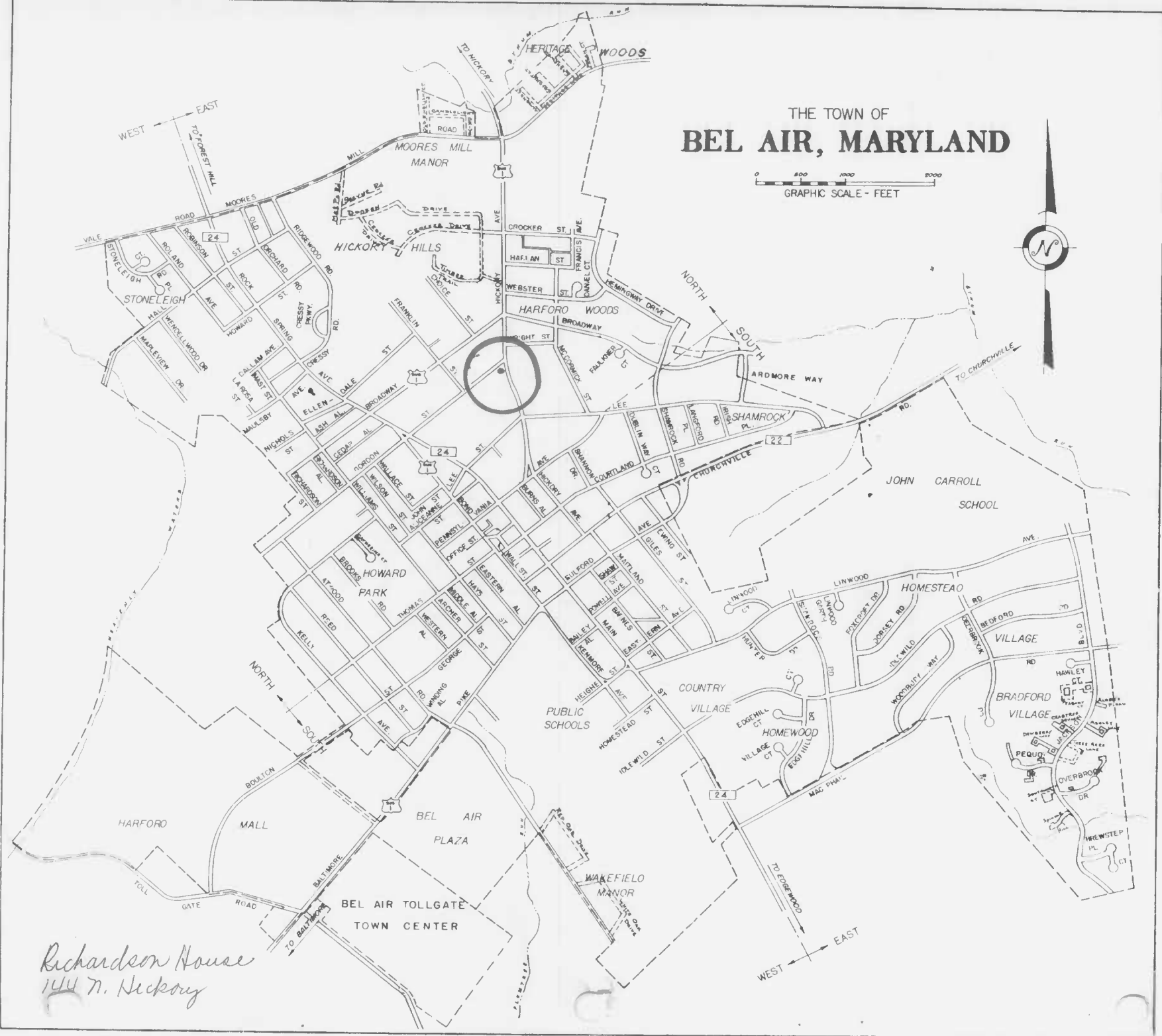
321/190           29 September 1948  
Elizabeth Richardson  
                 to  
Janet E. Pyle

66/215            31 January 1890  
John S. Richardson, Sr., Mary, Jesse Dance  
and Caroline  
                 to  
Elizabeth H. Richardson, wife of John  
S. Richardson, Jr.  
\$2,000  
The Dances' released a mortgage



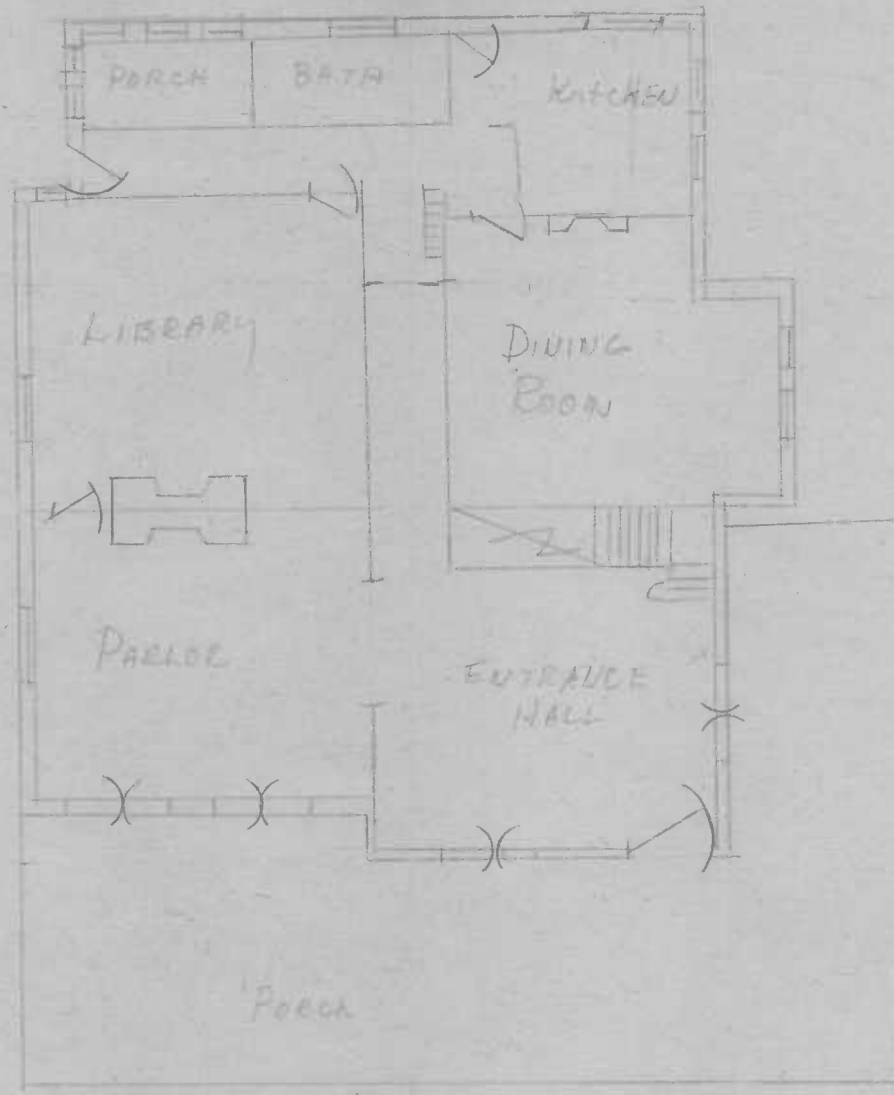
# THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND

0 500 1000 2000  
GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET



HA-1416

Richardson House  
144 N. Hickory



M. LABEW  
1979

RICHARDSON HOUSE  
114 N. Hickory  
BEL AIR

HA-1416

SCALE 3" = 32'























HA- 1416

Richardson House, 144 N. Hickory, Bel Air  
w. side

M. Harris, 1979













HA-1416 Richardson House, 144 N. Hickory, Bel Air  
in portion of estate  
Mr. Lauer, 1979